

FORGING THE FUTURE:



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Friday FACTS

16 March 2001

"Leadership, Partnership, and Championship"

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month --- March 2001

Screen for Life:
National Colorectal
Cancer Action Campaign



The U.S. Congress designated March as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" in 2000 to increase public awareness about the disease and to encourage persons aged ≥ 50 years to reduce their risk for colorectal cancer through regular screening tests. Colorectal

cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. During 2001, approximately 56,700 deaths will be attributed to colorectal cancer. Although effective screening is available, only 44% of U.S. adults aged ≥ 50 years have been screened recently with at least one of two tests. Routine screening has proven effective in reducing the number of cases of, and deaths from colorectal cancer.

CDC supports National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month through the Colorectal Cancer Prevention and Control Initiative, which includes "Screen for Life: A National Colorectal Cancer Action Campaign," and "A Call to Action," emphasizing to the public and to health-care providers the importance of early detection and regular screening among persons aged ≥ 50 years. CDC also supports training and education programs for health-care providers; conducts epidemiologic and behavioral research; oversees national cancer surveillance; and provides leadership by working with partners, health organizations, and state health departments.

States are increasing their focus on colorectal cancer prevention. For example, in Massachusetts, activities stress public and professional awareness of colorectal cancer. In New York, programs offer educational activities and access to screening services to the uninsured population. In North Carolina, surveys have been conducted to describe screening practices, to define barriers to screening, to assess public attitudes toward screening, and to assess screening insurance coverage. CDC's education and training materials are available on the World-Wide Web, <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/screenforlife> and <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorctl/calltoaction>.

Seeking information about 3rd party billing...

Attention Health Promotion and PPIP coordinators: Do you have any experience in billing 3rd party payers for health promotion and/or prevention services? CDR Bonnie Holder (MED-241) is looking for information about this - your success or obstacles, or attempts to do this. Please contact her at MAHolder@us.med.navy.mil. Phone: 762-3585 (DSN) or 202-971-3585 (Comm).

"Crews Into Shape" ...

challenge is going into their 2nd week. Folks are really excited and hyped up about making some great new healthier habits and about winning, of course. So keep up the great work! The nutrition web page has added new materials for Spring "Sample the Spectrum". They can be found under Current Campaign. Check them out. New recipes are also included.

**Change what you can, Accept what you can't,
Cultivate the wisdom to know the difference,
and believe wholeheartedly in your ability to do both.**

-AA Serenity Prayer modified by Lou Tice